

## **X. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

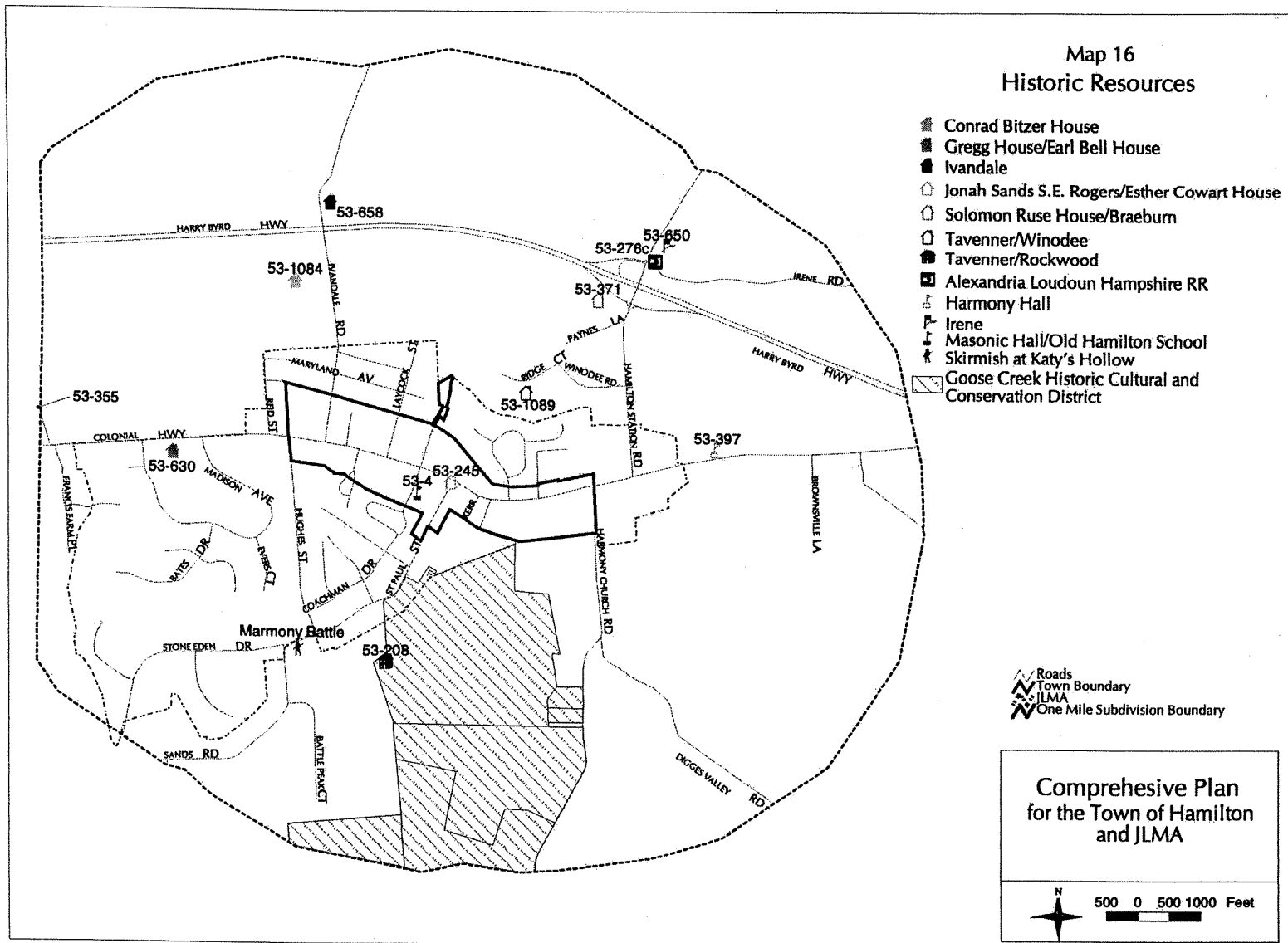
The Town of Hamilton and its surrounding area are rich in historic sites and structures. The plan area contains a significant Civil War battlefield site located south of town along St. Paul Street and Route 709. On March 21, 1865, Confederate Colonel John S. Mosby and 128 men of his 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Virginia Cavalry surprised and defeated Union soldiers commanded by Colonel Marcus Reno in a skirmish known as the Hamilton or Harmony Fight. Mosby inflicted over 50 casualties on the Federals at a cost of only two men killed, two captured, and several wounded. The Hamilton Fight was the last important action in Loudoun County during the Civil War.

In addition to historic sites, there are many buildings dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries that remain in good condition and are in active use. Some of these sites have been surveyed by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR, formerly Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission). These surveyed sites are listed on page 76. The survey forms are on file with the Loudoun County Department of Planning. New survey work is planned to assess additional historic and cultural resources in the County. The County anticipates conducting a countywide survey of historical structures and resources during 2003. The County also anticipates conducting survey work within some of the towns in Loudoun County, including Hamilton. This survey work will be conducted to assess whether the historic area in Hamilton could potentially be a historic district. This information will be submitted to VDHR for a determination as to whether the district is eligible for nomination to state or national registers.

In addition to these surveyed sites, the Town has many other older buildings, with a total of about 70 structures of approximately 100 or more years of age. Most of these buildings are located along the Colonial Highway in the center of Town. See Map 17 (pg. 77) for locations of structures approximately 100 years old. The area also contains some non-structural historic sites such as a portion of the rail bed of the Manassas Gap Railroad.

In addition to historic sites and structures, the 10,000-acre Goose Creek Historic Cultural and Conservation District lies at the southern edge of the planning area. It is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places and was designated in 1977 by Loudoun County as a zoning overlay district, in which new, non-farm construction is subject to architectural review. Development that occurs in this historic district must be sensitive to the cultural and horticultural significance of the area and is subject to review for conformance to historic district guidelines adopted by the County.

## Map 16 Historic Resources



**Surveyed Sites by the VDHR**

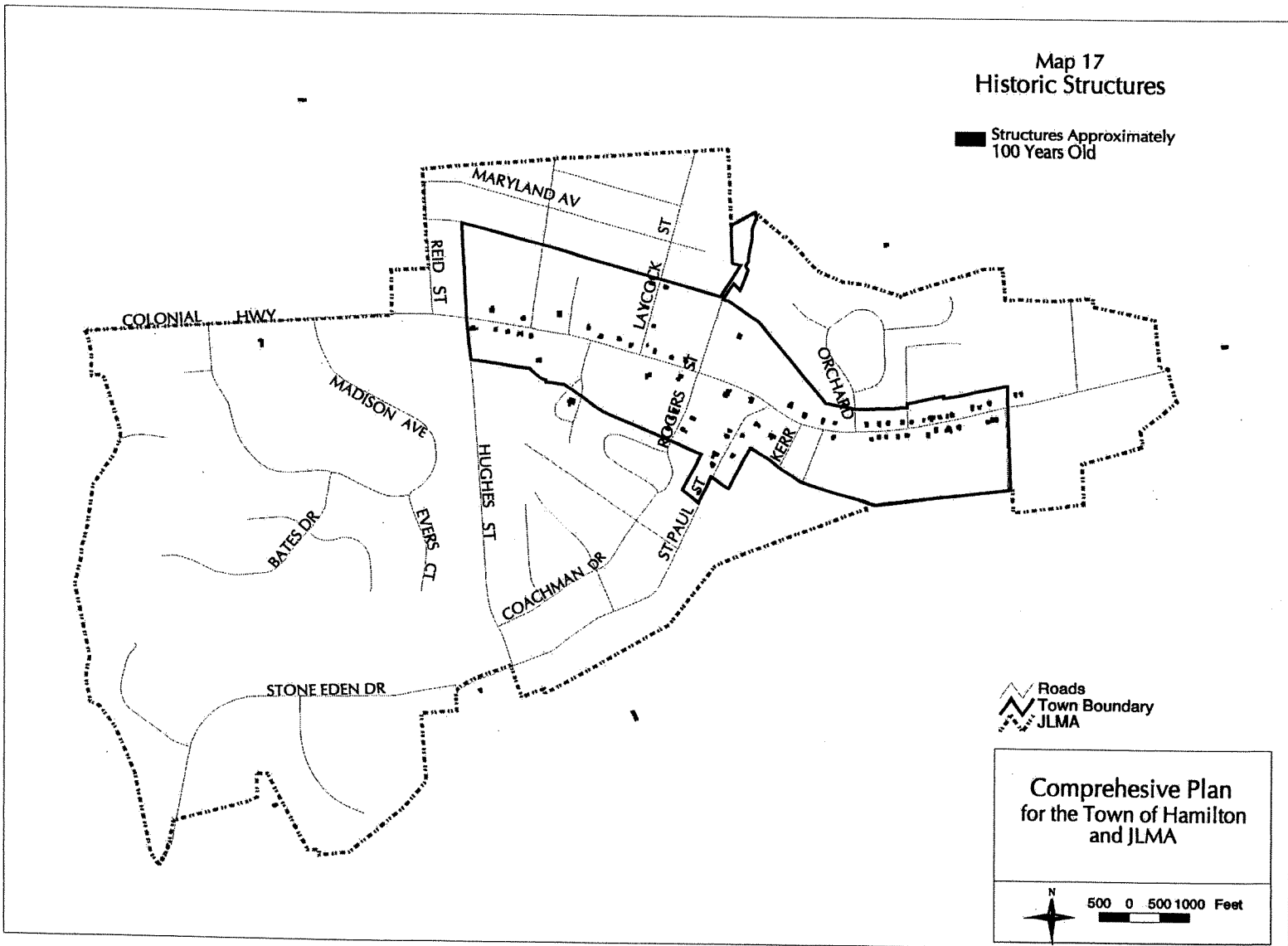
<u>Survey Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
53-1084	Conrad Bitzer House
53-1089	Tavenner/Winodee
53-208	Tavenner/Rockwood
53-245	Jonah Sands-S.E. Rogers/Esther Coward House
53-371	Solomon Ruse House/Braeburn
53-397	Harmony Hall/Nancy & Richard Tavenner
53-4	Masonic Hall/Old Hamilton School
53-630	Gregg House/Earl Bell House
53-650	Irene
53-658	Ivandale
53-276c	Alexandria Loudoun Hampshire RR
53-355	Ballenger House/Nichols Residence

**GOALS – HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

1. Preserve and protect the Town’s historic and cultural features that make it unique and enhance the small-town atmosphere and quality of life.

**POLICIES - HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

1. Recognize that the Town’s historic and cultural resources are fragile and irreplaceable and must be protected and preserved.
2. Use the Town’s historic and cultural resources as part of the framework for the Town’s strategic land use planning policies. Preservation of the identified framework, which includes historic features and public facilities, will help preserve the Town’s property values, aesthetic appeal and quality of life.
3. Develop and implement holistic and integrated growth management strategies to ensure that land use planning and development decisions respect and preserve the historic character of the Town.
4. Encourage the preservation, rehabilitation and enhancement of historic structures by ensuring that the Town’s land development ordinances permit compatible home-based businesses, provide for reasonable expansions and improvements to historic structures and permit new development to be compatible in character with historic structures.
5. Encourage citizens with significant older homes to seek historic status and maintain architectural styles in keeping with the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century character of the Town.



## **ACTION ITEMS – HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

1. Investigate designating a historic overlay zoning district to encourage preservation of historic structures and 19<sup>th</sup> century aspects of the Town. A historic overlay district protects areas of historic significance within the Town through a mapping process and special zoning provisions designed to preserve these areas for present and future generations.
2. Develop a Historic Resource Management Database with the assistance of the VDHR to support the overlay district program by recording and documenting site-specific information relating to the Town's historic resources. Such information is critical to develop and support preservation and protection programs as well as the general administration of the Town's policies and ordinances.

It is proposed that this database document and support the following:

- Location of identified historic and cultural features, such as:

Braeburn/Solomon Ruse House, Branch House/Ivy Hall (1880s), Brownsville School, Charles Bennett Hamilton/Miss Jane's Kindergarten/Miltonia, Claude Lowe House, Conrad Bitzer/C.Y. Hall Farmhouse, Earl Bell House/Gregg House, Edgewood, Jonah Sands/Esther Cowart House, Farmer's and Merchant's Old Bank Building (1910), Love House (1847), Laycock's/Mercantile Store, Hamilton Baptist Church (1899), Hamilton Milling Company, Richard Tavenner House/Harmony Hall, Harmony Methodist Church (1833) and Cemetery, Hamilton School/Masonic Hall/Green Enterprises (1873), Irene, Katy's Hollow, Lakeview Cemetery, Laycock/Norton House (1880s), Manassas Gap Railroad, Mansfield, Maple Lawn, Miltonia/Rogers Cowart House, Mount Olive Baptist Church, Mount Zion Methodist Church, Nichols House (Ballenger Lane), Offley/Maplewood/McCann House (1780), Railroad Cut at Brown's Farm, Sears Roebuck House, Snicker's Gap Tollhouse, Spring House behind Firehouse, St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1877), Taylor/Hoge House/Waverly Villa (1872), George and Tabitha Tavenner/Winodee Farm (1763), and Telephone Building.

- Identification of historic and specimen trees and tree stands of special significance, such as:

Bald Cedar Tree on St. James, Cucumber Magnolia Tree on West Colonial Highway, tree buffer at future Harmony Middle School, Katy's Hollow, buffer around Water Treatment Plant.

3. Implement a public outreach and education program with the assistance of the VDHR to ensure public awareness of and participation in the implementation of the Town's historic and cultural resources policies. At a minimum, this outreach program should include providing information to historic property owners regarding the state and federal tax incentives available for preservation and rehabilitation of historic properties and the positive economic benefits of historic preservation within a community.

4. Investigate designating a historic zoning district to encourage preservation of historic structures and 19<sup>th</sup> century aspects of the Town.
5. Should the VDHR determine that there is a definable historic district area and that such area has nomination potential, the Town will analyze this information and consider nomination of such district to the Virginia Landmarks Register and/or the National Register of Historic Places.
6. Develop and implement community design guidelines for residential and commercial structures to address visual quality and to further preserve the historic character of the Town.